

ROBERT LIGGATT.

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APRIL 25, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. MIERS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 6543.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 6543) granting an increase of pension to Robert Liggatt, submit the following report:

An increase of pension from \$12 to \$30 per month is sought in this bill.

The records of the War Department show that this soldier, now 77 years of age, served as a private in Company C, Sixth Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, from September 2, 1864, to June 13, 1865, when honorably discharged.

He is now pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$12 per month for total disability due to injury of left shoulder, nasopharyngeal catarrh, and disease of rectum.

A claim under the general law, filed in 1889, and based upon catarrh, bronchitis, deafness, diarrhea, piles, and disease of eyes was rejected in October, 1901, upon the ground of no record, no medical or other sufficient evidence of incurrence in the service, and claimant's declared inability to furnish the same.

He furnished the testimony of one comrade as to his being troubled with disease of eyes while in the service, also the testimony of the same comrade that he suffered from sore eyes from discharge up to 1874, and medical testimony showing treatment for diarrhea and piles since 1884.

When last examined, in April, 1898, the board of surgeons rated him \$4 for catarrh, \$16 for disease of rectum, \$10 for slight deafness in one ear and severe in the other, \$6 for enlarged prostate gland, and \$16 for disease of eyes, he being totally blind in one eye and vision in the other eye being but six-fiftieths.

Medical and other testimony filed with your committee shows that the soldier is wholly incapacitated for any labor by reason of his advanced age, chronic diarrhea, hemorrhoids, hernia, and disease of

eyes, being at times almost totally blind; that he owns no real estate, and that he depends upon his pension for the support of himself, wife, and an imbecile daughter.

The relief sought in the bill is eminently just and proper, it being shown that the soldier is practically blind and destitute.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended when amended as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place on the pension roll, subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws, the name of Robert Liggatt, late of Company C, Sixth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Heavy Artillery, and pay him a pension at the rate of thirty dollars per month in lieu of that he is now receiving.

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